



Nurses Christian Fellowship's Campus Vitals – Fall 2008



And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Cor 9:8

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Annual Group Survey Results

Thanks to all of you who responded to our **annual survey**. It is always exciting to see the creative ways that groups connect and how God is using you in your campus ministry!

For the school year 07/08, we had:

- 104 active student chapters
- 1824 students were involved in the groups
- 1051 students were involved at least half of the time
- 5 students accepted Christ as their Savior
- 17 of these chapters were new this year
- 38 groups are in the process of organizing a new group or planning to reactivate a former group this fall.



Student Community Resources



New student brochure

If you are looking for a small brochure to hand out at a NCF display or to explain what NCF is to students who are unfamiliar, we have just the thing for you! NCF has updated our student group brochures. You may order them via <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/publications/broof.html>.

Tools for evangelism – NCF seeks to equip you with resources to reach out to students, patients and families. New resources will be available later this fall. Watch for updates via email.

Kickoff posters – Do you want to advertise your first meeting or a special fall kickoff event? See if one of NCF's downloadable posters or postcard invitations will work for you - <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/student/resources/main.html>. We also have NCF Information Cards for students to complete at a display table, and then you can follow up with them later.



Introducing NCF's new Student Ministries Director, Renee Lick

Hello and welcome to the beginning of another school year!

I am excited to begin the school year with all 1800+ of you as the Student Ministries Director for NCF. I am looking forward to where God will take us this academic year. What patients will God guide us to care for who really need the listening ear or the words of comfort we can offer? Which students will make first-time commitments this year to follow Jesus?

When I tell those outside of the nursing profession about NCF, I am thrilled to explain the influential role we all have. We are in a profession where our job is to care for people – people created in the image of God - who are often experiencing a difficult time in their lives. Our motivation is to care for them not only out of a sense of duty, but out of our gratitude to God – a response to His love and sacrifice for us!

While in school, we are also called to be serving God by sharing the Good News with those in our college community. Many of you are interested in serving God through missions, and I have to tell you that being a missionary starts right where you are! God has placed you on your particular campus not just so that you can follow Jesus and complete your degree, but so that you can also invite others to follow Jesus with you! Pray for God to be guiding your conversations with friends and classmates and giving you courage to talk about your relationship with Him.

I am thrilled to be entering this fall semester with you all and look forward to hearing stories of God's work in your lives and on your campuses!

God's peace to you,
Renee

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

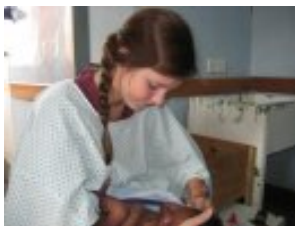
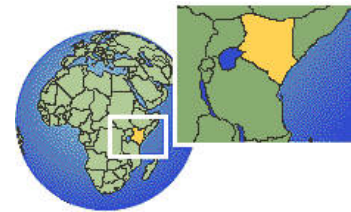
But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Renee is a graduate of the Hope-Calvin nursing program in Michigan. She has worked in intensive care, telemetry, camp nursing, and currently works PRN at Lawndale Christian Health Center in Chicago as a clinic nurse. She especially enjoys cross-cultural nursing and has been blessed to work in many cross-cultural nursing settings in New Mexico and in Chicago. If you're in Chicago, you may spot her running along the lakeshore, taking in an outdoor concert, or drinking coffee with students and friends.



Kenya Global Project

Each year, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship sponsors a mission opportunity for nursing students in Kenya, Africa. This summer, a student from the NCF student group at the University of TX – Tyler, was one of the students who went. Here is her testimony about her experience:



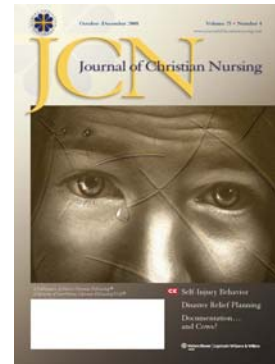
I had the amazing opportunity to go on the Kenya Global Project this summer. God taught me so much and really used our team in many ways. One of the things I really learned is to have joy and be thankful in the little things. I am now appreciative of things I had never thought twice about before - running water, toilet paper provided in public toilets, a shower head, smooth roads, cleanliness, and the list goes on! God has really been working with me on being content. It was amazing to see the Kenyan people with so little, but totally content and gracious with what they had. Kenya may not be financially rich compared to America, but they are surely spiritually rich, what could possibly be better? I was stretched and challenged in so many ways during these 7 weeks and God continually laid Psalm 50:15 on my heart, "Call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory." This verse helped me through many struggles, and as it says, He was glorified. During three of the seven weeks I was there, I lived with a Kenyan family and worked at Tenwek Hospital, which is one of the largest mission hospitals in the world. The motto for this hospital is, "We Treat, Jesus Heals." I've been challenged to have this mindset as I continue with nursing school and on to my career as a nurse. I also saw how I can show Christ's love as a nurse, whether working in a mission hospital or not. I will see healthcare in America in a different light now, and I will be a better nurse someday because of this experience.



What Is JCN?

JCN stands for the *Journal of Christian Nursing* – a quarterly publication of NCF. JCN has applicable articles written from a Christian healthcare perspective. These articles can be very helpful when doing research papers or thinking through your philosophy of Christian nursing.

One benefit of becoming a NCF member at the student rate of \$35.00, is a year's subscription to JCN. But wait, there's more. You also receive free online access to past JCN articles dating back to 2002. To see a topical list of archived articles that could be available to you, go to http://www.ncf-jcn.org/jcn/subject_index.php. For articles dating beyond 2002, contact ncf@intervarsity.org with a specific article request. Fees apply for off line articles.



So, how do you join? Go to <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/info/membership/main.html> and follow the prompts.



Does Your NCF Group Need to be Affiliated – or Re-affiliate?

Does your school require your group to be affiliated in order to be recognized? Did you know that being a recognized organization can sometimes entitle your group to funds from student activity fees and other benefits?

If you are interested in becoming an affiliated chapter of NCF, please see the "Why Affiliate" document along with the affiliation and constitution documents available at the bottom of the webpage - <http://www.ncf-jcn.org/student/start/plan.html>. If you have been affiliated with NCF in past years, please remember to re-affiliate this year by submitting an affiliation form, signed by this year's officers.



Faculty Corner

Your role is vital! As faculty advisor, you provide guidance for the group and continuity as student leaders graduate through the program. We appreciate you!
A note of encouragement for faculty from Sandra Jamison, Director of NCF Faculty and Graduate Student Ministry:

Back to School with Jesus – His Gifts and Instructions

How much we are like Jesus' disciples at the time He left them physically to do the work for which He had prepared them. Because of His love and desire for these twelve uneducated men to succeed, he gave them special helps and advice (See John 14 -16.) Jesus gives us these same **gifts** and **instructions** for the coming year because He loves us and wants us to experience the satisfaction of knowing we are pleasing Him - doing what He has called and prepared us to do. We may not always *feel* on top of things. The disciples probably were very insecure when they heard Jesus was leaving them on their own. Later they may have become quite discouraged when ridiculed or thrown in jail. But look what happened. They held on, and through the years many thousands of followers have used the gifts and instructions from Jesus that are ours too as we start a new year. Let us encourage one another to keep close to Jesus and to let Him love and guide our lives this year.



Clip and post this box in a spot where you can refer to it frequently.

GIFTS

PEACE – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Jn. 14:27

GUIDANCE- But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things. Jn. 14:26

RESOURCES - You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. Jn. 14:14

INSTRUCTIONS

REMAIN IN MY LOVE - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. Jn. 15:9

LOVE EACH OTHER - My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Jn. 15:12 (Love your colleagues and students – and yourself!)

ABIDE IN ME - Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. Jn. 15:4



Bible Study – Stress in the Life of a Nursing Student

Every nursing student experiences stressors in their daily lives. These can include the desire for good grades, financial pressure to pay for school, a difficult relationship with a roommate, the struggle to understand a new concept, conflict with an instructor or classmate, fear of a tough instructor, fear over interactions with patients. The list goes on. What are your biggest stressors?

We also learn to cope with stressors in our lives. What do you currently do to cope?
In what ways are these coping skills healthy or unhealthy?

You can look almost anywhere in Scripture and see stressors in the lives of those illustrated. Let's look at how Jesus handled stress in His life. Read Mark 1.

What kinds of stressors do you see in Jesus' life? ¹

How did Jesus handle the stress? ²

In what ways do the stressors in your life parallel the stressors in Jesus' life?

How was Jesus able to turn stressors from potentially negative outcomes to positive ones?

What changes can you make to cope with the stressors in your life?

Spend some time in prayer asking God for His help to handle stress in a positive, healthy way.

Notes for leaders:

1. *Tempted by Satan; John, the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus, is put in prison for preaching the good news; evil spirits taunted Him; people came to Him at all hours for healing; Jesus wanted to preach more – as this was His priority.*
2. *He brought specific people into his life to “walk beside him”- hand picked the disciples; He got away alone to pray; angels attended him; He worked to keep His priorities in line and kept a heart of compassion for the people.*



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